

“Joy in the Midst of Discontentment”

Philippians 4:10-20

Isaiah 14:12-14 “How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly; on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Five signs that discontentment is dragging us down spiritually:

1. Envy
2. Uncontrolled ambition
3. Critical spirit
4. Complaining spirit
5. Outbursts of anger

“Discontentment is the cancer of the soul.” Benjamin Franklin

Contentment – to be satisfied with what you have.

Principle: Contentment is learned.

How to experience joy in the midst of discontentment:

1. Learn to avoid comparisons

2 Corinthians 4:18 “We don’t look around at what we see right now, the troubles all around us. But we look forward to the joys in heaven. The troubles will soon be over but the joys that come will last forever.”

Three misconceptions about happiness:

1. I must have what others have to be happy.
2. I must be liked by everyone in order to be happy.

Satan’s lie: Self-worth = Performance + other’s opinions

God’s truth: Self-worth = Unconditional approval from God

Principle: Other people’s opinions can only enslave us if we let them

Galatians 1:10 “Am I now seeking human approval or God’s approval? Am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

3. I must have more to be happy.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

2. Learn to adjust to change

Three kinds of circumstances in life:

1. Those I can control and I do.
2. Those I can control and I don't.
3. Those I cannot control.

Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

2. Learn to draw on Christ's power
3. Learn to trust God to meet my needs

Matthew 6:31-33 "So do not start worrying: Where will my food come from? Or my drink? Or my clothes?....Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. Instead be concerned about everything else with God's Kingdom...and He will provide you with all these other things."

"You won't know that God is all you need until you endure a season in which God is all you have." Rita Springer